

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: de Nora + Duruz

Application No.: TBD, Divisional of 09/126,839

Filed: Concurrently Examiner: TBD

For: Cells for the electrowinning of aluminium having dimensionally stable metal-based anodes

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Prior to examination please preliminarily amend the present application:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-65, 81 and 82.

Please amend claim 66 as follows:

66. (amended) A method of producing aluminium in a cell [according to claim 1, the cell] comprising an anode having a metal-based anode substrate and an iron oxide-based outside layer, [in particular a hematite-based layer,] which is electrochemically active for the oxidation of oxygen ions into molecular oxygen, said method comprising keeping the anode dimensionally stable during electrolysis by maintaining a sufficient concentration of iron species in the electrolyte, and operating the cell at a sufficiently low temperature so that the required concentration of iron species in the electrolyte is limited by the reduced solubility of iron species in the electrolyte at the operating temperature, which consequently limits the contamination of the product aluminium by iron to an acceptable level.

REMARKS

Claim 66 has been amended to remove its dependence on claim 1 and make it into an independent claim.